

"Unapproved" Meeting Minutes

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, February 8, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 6:53 PM, by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5:

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

Mr. Costa made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Costa, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley; Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Wood were not present at the time.

Open Session recessed at 6:54 p.m. Open Session reconvened at 7:49 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.

III. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the agenda.

IV. Chairperson's Report - The Chair commented he was glad to see so many present for the presentation on the budget and announced workshops are scheduled for Saturday, February 20th at 12:30 p.m. and Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m.

V. Comments from the Public

A. Public Comments - Nancy Rainville commented on the lack of a reading specialist at her son's school, North Cumberland Middle

School. She thought a letter should be sent to the parents informing them there was no reading specialist there. The Superintendent said she would meet with Ms. Rainville and Mr. Kenworthy.

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B. Student Government Report - Amanda Crawford reported on the success of the Blood Drive at the High School, as well as upcoming activities such as the Variety Show, 8th Grade Orientation and the Living Lessons Production of Grease.

VI. Report of Standing Committees

A. Personnel Committee - Ms. MacBeth reported the subcommittee met and approved the contract for Bob Legacy as Director of Information Technology. Discussion ensued regarding the salary of \$84,000 and how it was budgeted. Mr. Costa stated he didn't believe there should be just a one year contract. Ms. MacBeth made a motion to approve the contract for Director of Information Technology. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the contract, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Costa.

B. Rules & Regulations Committee - Mr. Costa reported meeting last night on the Student Transportation Policy which hadn't been

revisited since 1987. He noted it had walking distances of one-half mile for Kindergarten; one mile for grades 1-5; one-and-a-half miles for grades 6-8 and two miles for grades 9-12. Surrounding communities have a two and a quarter mile walk for 9-12. They have asked the Business Manager to get the bus routes and have talked about changing the bell times at some schools. The Superintendent noted their intent for half day kindergarten would still be door to door.

Mr. Costa reported they will be looking at the high school and middle school handbooks. The Chair recommended including the elementary handbook as well.

C. Curriculum Committee - Ms. Beaulieu reported meeting last night on an initiative for the sports curriculum. They will also be reviewing the mission statement and hopes everyone will participate.

D. Property Committee - Mr. Wood reporting meeting earlier in the evening, noting they had done a walk through of the Technical wing at the last meeting.

VII. Consent Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda.

A. Police Report

B. Truancy Report

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session: 1/11/07, 1/25/07

D. Facilities Report

E. Enrollment Report

VIII. Approval of Minutes

A. Executive Session: 1/25/07 - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the minutes.

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IX. Personnel Recommendations

A. Mr. Costa made a motion to rescind the action taken by the school committee on 1/23/07 of Henry Brito, Computer Technician/Network Manager, system-wide, effective 9//28/2006 (budgeted). Ms. MacBeth provided a second.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE amending the motion to change the date to 1/23/2007. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the amended motion.

B. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Robert Legacy, Director of Information Technology, system-wide, effective 2/28/2007 (budgeted).

C. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the appointment of Stephen Cardoso, Boys' Baseball Coach, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 2/9/2007 (FTE: n/a, Step: n/a, Advanced Lane: n/a, Copay:

n/a; budgeted). A second was provided by Mr. Thibodeau, and Mr. Wood.

On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE amending the motion to change the date to read for the 2006-2007 school year. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the amended motion.

D. On a motion by Mr. Costa and Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Melissa Binns, English/Social Studies Teacher, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 4/13/2007 to the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

X. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported the CHS2010 Building Committee went over the bid documents and went through a value engineering session. He noted having a construction manger has kept them on budget and they are looking for more savings. The remaining curtain wall will be used on the cafeteria. The committee meets the first and third Monday of each month and the meetings are public. The Superintendent reported that she meets internally on Monday mornings with the construction manager, architects and the Director of Buildings & Grounds. She noted they are entering a complicated part of the project and will be stripping the roof off the cafeteria, which has actually been delayed because of the cold. She reported they have performed additional air quality tests at the high

school and there were no problems found. The 3.5 projects are still on hold. There will be another Town Council workshop on February 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the town Library.

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XI. New Business

A. Update on AESOP Software System - Mr. Rotella reported they will be utilizing the AESOP software for attendance and substitutes. They had a full day of training on January 29th. This will allow them to make sure that subs are certified in the subject for which they are called. The only reason for that not to happen is if there are no subs certified in that subject available. It will enable them to look at patterns of absenteeism. Employees will be issued an id with a pin number and it will have voice recognition.

B. Introduction of the 2007-2008 School Budget - The Superintendent introduced how central administration reached the budget for the school department in order to comply with the 3050 legislation not to exceed the 5.25% tax cap. She explained zero-based budgeting throughout central administration and highlighted areas of supplies and textbooks, purchasing, healthcare, transportation, staffing and literacy programs in preparation for the workshops being held on Saturday, February 10th and Tuesday, February 13th.

XII. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent thanked those present for the budget and hoped they would bring someone with them to the next meeting. She reported there will be meetings regarding the tax cap consequences with the legislators who put the bill forward. Dr. Morelle commented she is looking forward to having a Technology Department in place.

XIII. Comments from the Public - Ms. Girolomon expressed concern for the new windows, stating they are blinded by the sun. Mr. Wood noted window treatments were part of the budget. Ms. Girolomon was seeking reimbursement for ink cartridges that she purchased and was referred to her supervisor. Ms. Lambert thanked the school department for the invitation to the budget workshops and suggested large ads in the Valley Breeze. Mr. Thurston commented on the tax cap impact portion of the budget presentation and noted Mr. Driscoll had reported needing about ten more teachers. Ms. Butler expressed concern for personnel at the High School noting the difficulty in placing students in classes. She invited committee members to see how guidance and scheduling works. Mr. McLaughlin asked about fringe benefits and Mr. Prignano offered to meet with him after the meeting.

XIV. School Committee Comments - Mr. Thibodeau reported on the spelling bee at Garvin School and the upcoming PTO meeting at Community. Ms. Beaulieu congratulated the winner of the spelling

bee and bingo at Ashton School. She noted the after school coordinator is looking to expand the program. Ms. MacBeth reported on the healthy school environment and requests to bring back to North Cumberland Middle School. Mr. Wood reminded everyone about the meeting on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. regarding the larcenies at the High School. The Cumberland Hill PTO will be meeting Wednesday evening. Mr. Crowley reporting meeting with parents and principal of the Pre-School and everyone is looking forward to the Wellness Policy.

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XV. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

2. Central Administrators' Contracts

3. Non-Contractual Salaries

4. Potential Litigation

Mr. Wagner made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion. Open session recessed at 9:57 p.m. Open Session was reconvened without Ms.

MacBeth at 11:41 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes, without Ms. MacBeth.

XVI. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 11:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Subject to approval by the School Committee